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Amdt. Dated February 2, 2005
Reply to Office action of Feb. 27, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 24, 26-27 and 35-37 are pending in the present application. Claims 24, 26-27, and 35 have been amended. Claims 36-37 have been added. Claims 25, and 28-34 have been cancelled without prejudice. The amendments are supported by the originally filed specification and claims. No new matter has been introduced.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to the Drawings for not indicating the feature of "communication" as claimed in Claim 28. Claim 28 has been cancelled. Therefore, the objections to the Drawings should be withdrawn.

Rejection to Claims 28 and 29 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejects Claims 28 and 29 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 28 and 29 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections to Claims 28 and 29 should be withdrawn.

Rejection to Claims 26-29 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejects Claims 26-29 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph for not reasonable providing enablement for having a holder abutment being both of arc-shaped members and a ring. Claims 26-27 have been amended, and Claims 28-29 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments overcome the rejections. Therefore, the rejections to Claims 26-29 should be withdrawn.

Rejection to Claim 29 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

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The Examiner rejects Claim 29 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 29 has been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection to Claim 29 should be withdrawn.

Rejection to Claims 24-26, 30-32, and 35 under 35 USC 102(b) by US '290

The Examiner rejects Claims 24-26, 30-32, and 35 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Powers, U.S. Pat. 3,253,290 (US '290). Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are not anticipated by US '290 for the following reasons.

The claimed subject matter in the pending claims as represented by Claim 24 is directed to a paint roller that has, among other features, two holder mounts having a base surface and a journal protruding from said base surface in a direction away from said paint applicator; wherein said journal comprises a holder abutment and a hollow cylindrical protrusion extending from the holder abutment; said holder abutment has a planar abutment surface substantially aligned on a common plane; the total area of said planar abutment surface for each of said journal is smaller than an axial cross-section of each of said holder mounts; and said hollow cylindrical protrusion forms a channel through which paint is channelled for storage within said paint applicator. This feature is not disclosed by US '290.

US '290 simply discloses a self-wring surface treating implement that has end plates 2 and axially projecting trunnions 3 that form the central solid portion of the end plates. See, column 2, lines 20-35. The axially projecting trunnions 3 have the same configuration and size from the point of end plates to the outmost tip. Applicant respectfully submits that the axially projecting trunnions 3 disclosed in US '290 are fundamentally different from the journal as claimed in

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Claim 24 of the present application. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections to Claims 24, 26-27, and 35-37 under 102(b) be withdrawn.

Rejection to Claims 24-26 under 35 USC 103(a) over US '399

The Examiner rejects Claims 24-26 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kessler, U.S. Pat. 4,458,399 (US '399). Applicant respectfully submits that the currently amended Claims 24 and 26 are not unpatentable over US '399 for the following reasons.

US '399 simply discloses an Ink Roller Assembly With Capillary Ink Supply that has a pair of end closure support members 32 including an axially or outwardly projecting bearing journals 36. See, column 3, lines 5-11. The bearing journals disclosed in US '399 were simple cylindrical protrusions. In contrast, as discussed above, the claimed paint roller has journals that comprise a holder abutment and a hollow cylindrical protrusion extending from the holder abutment. Applicant respectfully submits that the projecting bearing journals 36 disclosed in US '399 are fundamentally different from the journals as claimed in Claim 24 of the present application. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections to Claims 24 and 26 under 103(a) be withdrawn.

Rejection to Claims 24-35 under 35 USC 103(a) over US '392

The Examiner rejects Claims 24-35 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Er, U.S. Pat. 6,036,392 (US '392). Applicant respectfully submits that the currently amended Claims 24, 26-27, and 35-37 are not unpatentable over US '399 for the following reasons.

US '399 is one of prior patents awarded to the same inventor of the present application. US '399 simply discloses a roller has an opening 9 that has an extended end surface 11 and end walls 8 of the handle frame 7 retain the end surfaces 11 serving as support for the

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rotation of the roller 2. See, column 2, lines 45-58. There is no description of any abutment structures as claimed in the present application. The Examiner alleges that FIG. 4 and FIG. 1 of US '399 discloses the abutment structures. This allegation is not supported by the reference taken as one disclosure. For example, the B-B cross-section of FIG. 4 as shown in FIG 6, the abutment is really indiscernible. The tiny curve formed in the middle of the end surfaces does not resemble the abutment structures claimed in the present invention. It is evident that without the disclosure of the present invention, one skilled in the art will not be able to argue that there is one functional abutment existing in the disclosure of US '399 because there is no disclosure of the abutment structure. It is to be noted that the present invention is directed to reduction of friction resistance between the roller and the handling frame. Applicant of the present invention discovered that reducing surface contacts between the abutment and handling frame provides less friction resistance. Applicant respectfully submits that US '399 does not teach or suggest the claimed abutment structure of the present application. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections to Claims 24, 26-27, and 35-37 under 103(a) be withdrawn.

Rejection to Claims 24-28, 30, and 33-35 under 35 USC 103(a) over US '264 and US '290

The Examiner rejects Claims 24-28, 30, and 33-35 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mallindine U.S. Pat. 3,588,264 (US '264) in view of Powers (US '290). Applicant respectfully submits that the currently amended Claims 24, 26-27, and 35-37 are not unpatentable over US '264 in view of US '290 for the following reasons.

US '264 simply discloses a paint roller having journal portions 14 and 15 of the end-closure members 16 and 17. It further discloses that the journal 15 of the closure member 17 is tubular and provided with the fill cap 18. See, column 2, lines 5-9. Neither US '264

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nor US '290 discloses the abutment structure of the journal as claimed in the present application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection to Claims 24-28, 30, and 33-35 under 35 USC 103(a) over US '264 and US '290 be withdrawn

In summary, Claims 24, 26-27, and 35-37 are novel and non-obvious in view of the cited prior arts. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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